



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development



Presented by **Shawn Arner**

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

RUS Telecommunications Program

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Improves Distance Learning or Telemedicine Services in Rural America by funding equipment that allows rural residents to access distance learning or telemedicine services from hub sites located in larger urban or suburban areas, reduces the need to travel long distances for medical services or educational opportunities.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Distance learning means a telecommunications link to an end user through the use of eligible equipment to:

- 1) Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas; or
- 2) Connect teachers and students, located in one rural area with teachers and students that are located in a different rural area.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Telemedicine means a telecommunications link to an end user through the use of eligible equipment which electronically links medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information in audio, video, graphic, or other format for the purpose of providing improved health care services primarily to residents of rural areas.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

- On January 15, President Obama appointed Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to head up the effort to address the problem of heroin and other opiate use in rural areas.
- Substance Abuse treatment, counseling, and education through telemedicine and/or distance learning is one of the many eligible applications of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Applicant Eligibility

The following entity types are eligible to apply:

- Incorporated organization or partnership;
- Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b (e);
- State or local unit of government;
- Consortium as defined in 1703.102; or
- Other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

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Examples of Eligible Equipment:

- Computer hardware and software
- Audio and video equipment
- Computer network components
- Telecommunications terminal equipment
- Data terminal equipment
- Interactive audio/video equipment
- Inside wiring

All equipment must be new.

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Select Ineligible purposes:

- Acquiring, installing, or constructing telecommunications transmission facilities
- Medical equipment not used primarily for telemedicine (50%+)
- Salaries or administrative expenses
- Application preparation costs
- Purchase of land, buildings, building construction, site development, or destruction or alteration of buildings.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

FY 2016 Funding / Key Dates

- Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) published 1/12/16
- Window Closing Date: 3/14/16
- Funding Level: \$ 19 Million
 - Maximum award: \$500,000
 - Minimum award: \$50,000
- Webinar Dates: Jan 22, Feb 2, Feb 18
- Resources and Information:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>



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Shawn.arner@wdc.usda.gov

202.720.0800

www.rd.usda.gov

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